

**Listing of Claims:**

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A biodegradable fibrous web comprising biodegradable polymer fibers, the web having a durable hydrophilic surface coated with a hydrophilic polymeric material in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 2.0 percent by weight, based on the dry weight of the web; in which the hydrophilic polymeric material is a ~~polysaccharide or a modified polysaccharide~~ cellulose derivative, the cellulose derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, methyl hydroxypropyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, or a combination thereof; wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material will not significantly suppress the surface tension of an aqueous medium with which the web may come in contact.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the biodegradable polymer fibers comprise an aliphatic polyester.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 22, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyglycolic acid, polylactide polylactic acid, and copolymers thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.05 to about 1.0 percent by weight of the web, based on the dry weight of the web.

26. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 25, wherein the hydrophilic polymeric material comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 percent by biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

28. (Previously Presented) A biomedical device comprising the biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

29. (Previously Presented) A food package comprising the biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18.

30. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the web is a nonwoven web.

31. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 30, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown web, spunbond web, or a combination thereof.

32. (Previously Presented) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18, wherein the surface is substantially uniformly coated with the hydrophilic polymeric material.

33-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The biodegradable fibrous web of claim 18 ~~35~~, wherein the cellulose derivative is ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.